

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5731

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

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CINCEUR

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S E C R E T ANKARA 9328

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, MARR, CENTO, NATO, IR

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE NATO-IRAN JOINT MILITARY PLANNING TALKS

REF: TEHRAN 12098 (DTG 070930Z DEC 76)

1. FROM LIMITED INFORMATION AVAILABLE IN OUR FILES,
EXCHANGE

OF AIR DEFENSE INFORMATION BETWEEN NATO AND IRAN HAS BEEN
UNDER CONSIDERATION SINCE 1964 AND A DATA EXCHANGE AGREEMENT
WAS CONCLUDED UNDER CENTO AUSPICES IN 1974, BUT NOT SIGNED
AT THAT TIME. CENTO'S MILITARY COMMITTEE HAS BEEN MONITORING
PROGRESS OF THIS EXCHANGE AND INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING IN ITS
REPORT TO THE 23RD COUNCIL OF MINISTER'S MEETING IN MAY 1976:
QUOTE: "THE MILITARY COMMITTEE NOTED THE PROGRESS AND STATUS OF
THE EXCHANGE OF AIR DEFENSE INFORMATION BETWEEN NATO AND IRAN.
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES (SOPS) HAVE BEEN AGREED FOR THE
EXCHANGE OF AIRFIELD SERVICEABILITY, WEATHER INFORMATION
AND CROSS-TELLING AND HANDOVER PROCEDURES BETWEEN CRP MARDIN,
CRC TABRIZ, AND INSTRUCTIONS WERE ISSUED IN OCTOBER 1975,
FOR THE SOP TO BE PUT INTO EFFECT. HOWEVER, THE
1974 AGREEMENT HAS STILL TO BE RATIFIED BY NATO. THE
COMMITTEE NOTED THAT THE SUBJECT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED WITH

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NATO BY THE CHIEF OF STAFF, CMPS (CENTO'S COMBINED MILITARY

PLANNING STAFF) AND THAT, HOPEFULLY, A FAVORABLE DECISION WOULD SHORTLY BE RECEIVED." UNQUOTE. THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS APPROVED THE MILITARY COMMITTEE'S REPORT IN TOTO, BUT THE PAKISTANIS ENTERED A RESERVATION REGARDING NATO-CENTO COLLABORATION. THE PAKISTANIS, HOWEVER, HAVE NOT SPECIFICALLY OBJECTED TO THE NATO-IRANIAN AIR DEFENSE DATA EXCHANGE UNDER THE CENTO UMBRELLA.

2. BY LETTER ON OCTOBER 27, 1976, SYG BAYULKEN INFORMED MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF DEPUTIES THAT SACEUR, ACTING FOR NATO WAS READY TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT TITLED "EXCHANGE OF AIR DEFENSE INFORMATION" AND BEARING THE SUBTITLE "EXCHANGE OF NATO AIR DEFENSE (REGIONAL) INFORMATION AND IRANIAN AIR DEFENSE (REGIONAL) INFORMATION UNDER CENTO AUSPICES." BECAUSE THE AGREEMENT HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, WE DID NOT INTERPOSE ANY OBJECTION BUT SUGGESTED THAT, DUE TO PAKISTANI SENSITIVITIES, THE MEETING TO CULMINATE THE AGREEMENT SHOULD BE HELD IN ANKARA OR IZMIR UNDER CENTO AUSPICES RATHER THAN AT A NATO HEADQUARTERS. WE DO NOT YET KNOW WHEN AGREEMENT WILL BE SIGNED. (COPIES OF BAYULKEN'S LETTER AND OUR REPLY WILL BE POUCHED EMBASSY TEHRAN, USNATO AND DEPARTMENT -- NEA/RA AND EUR/SE.)

3. AS FAR AS WE ARE AWARE, NATO-IRANIAN COOPERATION UNDER CENTO AUSPICES EXTENDS ONLY TO THE EXCHANGE OF AIR DEFENSE DATA DESCRIBED ABOVE, AND NOT TO BROADER ASPECTS OF JOINT MILITARY PLANNING MENTIONED REFTEL. ON AN ALLIANCE-TO-ALLIANCE BASIS, CENTO EXCHANGES OBSERVERS AND HOLDS DISCUSSIONS WITH NATO PERIODICALLY ON SPECIFIC SUBJECTS, BUT THIS CANNOT BE CONSTRUED AS JOINT PLANNING. BERGUS

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